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COLLECTION

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A NEW HONEY ANT FROM CALIFORNIA.

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Myrmecocystus lugubris, new species.

Worker. — Length 2.5-4 mm.

Head distinctly longer than broad, subrectangular, very nearly as broad in front as behind, with straight subparallel sides and rounded posterior border. Eyes somewhat more than one fifth as long as the sides of the head, more convex and larger than in *M. melliger* Forel, smaller than in *M. mexicanus* Wesmæl. Ocelli very small. Mandibles 7-toothed, the apical tooth longest and curved. Clypeus convex but not carinate, with broadly and evenly rounded, but not projecting, anterior border. Frontal area obsolescent. Maxillary palpi very long and slender, their terminal joint not

more than half as long as the penultimate. Antennæ slender. Thorax as in *M. melliger*, pronotum nearly as broad as long; mesoëpinotal depression very shallow and rather short in profile; epinotum rounded, with subequal base and declivity. Petiole less than half as broad as the epinotum, slightly inclined forward, much more compressed anteroposteriorly and with much sharper border than in *melliger* and *mexicanus* or any of their subspecies or varieties. The posterior surface of the petiole is flat, the anterior feebly convex, the border, seen from behind, very faintly impressed in the middle. Gaster rather large, capable of considerable distension. Legs long and slender.

Mandibles subopaque, coarsely striated. Remainder of body shining, very finely and obscurely punctate; head more glabrous than the thorax and gaster.

Hairs and pubescence white, rather long; the former erect on the body and legs, but not on the antennal scapes; clypeal and gular ammochætæ long and conspicuous. The hairs on the legs are much shorter than those on the body, the pubescence on the head sparser than on the thorax and gaster.

Body black; clypeus, antennæ, palpi, legs and intersegmental constrictions of gaster piceous or fuscous; mandibles and mouth sordid yellow.

Described from fifteen specimens taken by Mr. J. Chester Bradley at Otis, in the Mojave Desert, California (Dec. 16, 1908). The two largest workers (measuring 4 mm.) have the gaster greatly distended and are evidently in a semireplete condition, showing that this species has the honey-storing habits of *M. mexicanus* and the typical *M. melliger*. The new species is remarkable on account of its diminutive size, the absence of erect hairs on the antennal scapes, the deep coloration of the body and the peculiar structure of the petiole, which is not thick and blunt in profile as in *M. melliger* or subcuneate as in *M. mexicanus*, but much compressed anteroposteriorly as in certain species of *Formica* and *Camponotus*.